

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 2, 3, 7, 10, 11, 14, 18, 19, 22, 26, 27, and 30 have been cancelled.  
Claims 1, 4, 6, 8, 9, 12, 15 - 17, 20, 21, 23 - 25, 28, 29, and 31 have been amended, as follows:

1. (currently amended) A system to facilitate data transfer between a server and a client, comprising:

at least one server network to communicate data ~~via a first Input/Output (I/O) architecture;~~

at least two Virtual Network Interface Cards (VNICs) to communicate the data ~~via the first I/O from the server network to the Infiniband~~ Infiniband architecture;

a client network to communicate data ~~via a second I/O~~ an Ethernet architecture;

at least two bridging devices to convert packets useable in the ~~first I/O~~ Infiniband architecture to packets useable in the ~~second I/O~~ Ethernet architecture, wherein ~~no more than a first~~ a first one of the at least two bridging devices transfers the data with ~~[[any]] a first~~ a first one of the at least two VNICs, ~~and the at least two bridging devices transfer the data with the client network; and~~

at least one intermediate driver, coupled to the at least one server network and the at least two VNICs to bind to the at least one server network and to the at least two VNICs to receive an error message that the first of the at least two bridging devices is not working, wherein the at least one intermediate driver provides a fail-over function to maintain a connection between the server network and the client network.

Claims 2 and 3 (cancelled).

4. (currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the at least one

intermediate driver provides ~~at least one of:~~ Internet Protocol Security (IPSec)[[.]] and Virtual Local Area Network (VLAN) protocols.

5. (original) The system of claim 1, wherein the at least one intermediate driver binds to the at least one server network via at least one miniport instance.

6. (currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the client network includes at least one switch utilizing the ~~second I/O~~ Ethernet architecture.

Claim 7 (cancelled).

8. (currently amended) The system of claim ~~[[7]]~~ 1, wherein the fail-over function terminates a connection between the first one of the at least two bridging devices having the error and the first one of the at least two VNICs ~~corresponding to the one of the at least two bridging devices having the error~~, and initiates a connection between an ~~alternative~~ a second one of the at least two bridging devices and an ~~alternative~~ a second one of the at least two VNICs.

9. (currently amended) A method to facilitate data transfer between a server and a client, comprising:

communicating data with at least one server network via a ~~first Input/Output (I/O)~~ an Infiniband architecture utilizing at least two Virtual Network Interface Cards (VNICS);

~~communicating the data with at least two Virtual Network Interface Cards (VNICS) via the first I/O architecture;~~

converting packets of the data useable in the ~~first I/O~~ Infiniband architecture to packets of the data useable in a ~~second I/O~~ an Ethernet architecture through use of at least two bridging devices, ~~wherein no more than one of the at least two bridging devices transfers the data with any one of the at least two VNICS, and the at least two~~

bridging devices transfer the converted packets of data to a client network utilizing the ~~second I/O Ethernet~~ architecture, a first one of the at least two bridging devices being a datapath for the converted packets of data; and

~~binding receiving, at least one an~~ intermediate driver ~~[[to]]~~ coupled to the at least one server network and to the at least two VNICs an error message that the first one of the at least two bridging devices is not working, wherein the at least one intermediate driver provides a fail-over function to maintain a connection between the server network and the client network to allow transfer of data to continue between a second one of the at least two bridging devices and the client network when an error occurs during ~~transfer of the data between one of the at least two bridging devices and the client network~~ message is received.

Claims 10 and 11 (cancelled).

12. (currently amended) The method of claim 9, wherein the intermediate driver provides ~~at least one of:~~ Internet Protocol Security (IPSec) and Virtual Local Area Network (VLAN) protocol.

13. (original) The method of claim 12, further including binding the at least intermediate driver to the at least one VLAN via at least one miniport instance.

Claim 14 (cancelled).

15. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~[[14]]~~ 9, wherein the fail-over function terminates a connection between the first one of the at least two bridging devices having the error and ~~[[the]]~~ a first one of the at least two VNICs ~~corresponding to the one of the at least two bridging devices having the error~~, and initiates a connection between ~~an alternative~~ the second one of the at least two bridging devices

alternative a second one of the at least two VNICs.

16. (currently amended) The method of claim 9, wherein the client network includes at least one switch utilizing the ~~second I/O~~ Ethernet architecture.

17. (currently amended) A program code storage device, comprising:  
a computer-readable medium; and  
computer-readable program code, stored on the computer-readable medium,  
having instructions, which when executed, cause a computing device to  
communicate data with at least one server network ~~via a first Input/Output (I/O)~~  
architecture,

communicate the data with the at least one server network via an Infiniband  
architecture utilizing at least two Virtual Network Interface Cards (VNICs) ~~via the first I/O~~  
architecture,

convert packets of the data useable in the ~~first I/O~~ Infiniband architecture to  
packets of the data useable in ~~a second I/O~~ an Ethernet architecture through use of at  
least two bridging devices, wherein ~~no more than~~ a first one of the at least two bridging  
devices transfers the data with ~~[[any]]~~ a first one of the at least two VNICs, and the at  
least two bridging devices transfer the data to a client network utilizing the second I/O  
architecture, and

~~[[bind]]~~ receive, at ~~least one~~ an intermediate driver ~~[[to]]~~ , coupled to the at least  
one server network and to the at least two VNICs, an error message that the first one of  
the at least two bridging devices is not working, wherein the at least one intermediate  
driver provides a fail-over function to maintain a connection between the server network  
and the client network to allow transfer of data to continue between a second one of the

at least one bridging devices and the client network when the error message is received.

Claims 18 and 19 (cancelled).

20. (currently amended) The program code storage device of claim 17, wherein the at least one intermediate driver provides ~~at least one of:~~ Internet Protocol Security (IPSec) and Virtual Local Area Network (VLAN) protocol.

21. (currently amended) The program code storage device of claim 17, wherein the computer-readable program code ~~further~~ includes instructions to bind[[s]] the at least one intermediate driver to the at least one VLAN via at least one miniport instance.

Claim 22 (cancelled).

23. (currently amended) The program code storage device of claim 17, wherein the "fail-over" feature terminates a connection between the first one of the at least two bridging devices having the error and the first one of the at least two VNICs ~~corresponding to the one of the at least two bridging devices having the error,~~ and initiates a connection between ~~an alternative~~ the second one of the at least two bridging devices and ~~an alternative~~ a second one of the at least two VNICs.

24. (currently amended) The program code storage device of claim 17, wherein the client network includes at least one switch utilizing the ~~second I/O~~ Ethernet architecture.

25. (currently amended) A system, comprising:  
at least one server network to communicate data ~~via a first Input/Output (I/O)~~  
architecture;

at least two Virtual Network Interface Cards (VNICs) to communicate the data ~~via the first I/O~~ from the at least one server network to an Infiniband architecture;

at least two bridging devices to convert packets useable in the ~~first I/O~~ Infiniband architecture to packets useable in ~~a second I/O~~ an Ethernet architecture utilized by a client network, wherein ~~no more than a first~~ a first one of the at least two bridging devices transfers the data with ~~[[any]]~~ a first one of the at least two VNICs, ~~and the at least two bridging devices transfer the data with the client network; and~~

at least one intermediate driver, coupled to the at least one server network and to the at least two VNICs, to bind to the at least one server network and to the at least two VNICs to receive an error message that the first of the at least two bridging devices is not working, wherein the at least one intermediate driver provides a fail-over function to maintain a connection between the server network and the client network to allow transfer of data to continue between a second one of the at least two bridging devices and the client network after the error message is received.

Claims 26 and 27 (cancelled).

28. (currently amended) The system of claim 25, wherein the at least one intermediate driver provides support for the features ~~at least one~~ of: Internet Protocol Security (IPSec), and Virtual Local Area Network (VLAN) protocol.

29. (currently amended) The system of claim 25, wherein the at least one intermediate driver ~~[[binds]]~~ is coupled to the at least one server network via at least one miniport instance.

Claim 30 (cancelled).

31. (currently amended) The system of claim ~~[[30]]~~ 25, wherein the fail-over

function terminates a connection between the first one of the at least two bridging devices ~~[[having]]~~ sending the error message and the first one of the at least two VNICs ~~corresponding to the one of the at least two bridging devices having the error~~, and initiates a connection between ~~an alternative~~ the second one of the at least two bridging devices and ~~an alternative~~ the second one of the at least two VNICs.